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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND REPORTS

Project Proposal Memorandum

TO : Projects Review Committee,  
Geographic Area  
FROM: Chief, Geography Division

Date: 20 November 1952

1. Subject of Proposed Project: Submarine Communication Cables of the  
Soviet Bloc and Other Nations of Potential  
Soviet Invasion. Project Number 1104.

2. Statement of Project:

- a. Problem:
- 1) To select submarine cable lines on the basis of their importance to the military and economic potential of the Soviet Bloc.
  - 2) To give essential information and recommendations on the vulnerability of the submarine communication cables which would be of assistance in locating and severing these lines.

- b. Scope:
- 1) The study will be developed areally by sections including the countries bordering on the

- a. Baltic Sea
- b. Barents Sea
- c. Black Sea
- d. Sea of Okhotsk
- e. Sea of Japan
- f. Yellow Sea
- g. East China Sea
- h. South China Sea
- i. Gulf of Siam

- 2) Importance of the cable as a communication artery will be established on the basis of traffic it handles and strategic importance of the area it serves.
- 3) The cable lines selected will be described according to size and construction features.
- 4) Details of cable location will include major cities it connects, points at which the cable enters the water, tidal conditions where cable enters the water, shoreline and bottom characteristics, and landmarks in the vicinity of cable terminals which might be used to assist in locating these lines from the sea.

DOCUMENT NO. 40  
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☐  
☒ DECLASSIFIED  
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S G  
NEXT REVIEW DATE: 25X1A2g  
AUTH: HR 70-2  
DATE: 12 JUN 1980 REVIEWER: [REDACTED]

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IN 1101

3. Need for Project: Requested by the Director of Naval Intelligence for OP 311.

Reference: Top Secret Memorandum of 8 September 1952 to D/R from AD/RR on study temporarily referred to as [REDACTED] 25X4A

D/GG designated responsible Division in memorandum of 15 September 1952 from the AD/RR to Chiefs, D/R, Geographic Research, D/S, D/GG, Communications Branch, and D/S.

Subject: Exact Location of USSR Submarine Communication Cables; Information Concerning

Reference: a. ONI OP-322Y2 F/CRH Serial 000763P32, 25 August 1952 and Enclosures 1 and 2.  
b. Memo to ONI from AD/RR, subject as above, dated 15 September 1952.

4. Responsible Branch: GG/S (participating D/GG Branches are GG/F, GG/N, GG/E, and GG/W.

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Responsible Analyst: [REDACTED] S/Com Responsible Analyst: [REDACTED]

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5. Cooperation Desired from Other Divisions of ORR:

D/GG and S/Com have joint responsibility for producing information required for the study, and D/GG has responsibility for writing up the report.

6. Estimated Man-Hours Required to Complete Project:

Producing Division:	D/GG 1,000	Cooperating ORR Divisions:	D/GP 100
	S/Com 600		D/GG 200

Total: 1,900

7. Graphics or Maps: Three maps showing cable locations.

8. Cooperation Desired from Other CIA Offices and Other Agencies:

- a. Coordination, as required, with ONI.  
b. Data in files of the following will be examined:

Signal Corps	OSI	AT&T
ESID	I/EE	
Graphics Register	Dept. of Commerce	
ONI	A Cable & R	
Air Force	OIR State	
OO	MSA	
SO	FCC	
WU	ITU	
FEC	[REDACTED]	25X1X7

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9. Probable Completion Date: Present commitments of D/GG to RQM/OIS and to D/B on NIS would preclude completion of this study by May 1953 unless ONI requests over-riding priority. Without such priority, it is estimated that the project can be completed by July 1953.

10. Probable Form of Final Publication: CIA/RR-GR-

11. Special Recommendations Regarding Distribution of Finished Report:

TS Report.

12. Comments: Initial incomplete report with partial data to determine the trend and extent of the completed study requested by ONI about 1 December 1952.

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Chief, Geography Division

Approved by D/GG Projects  
Review Committee

19 November 1952

Concurrence

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*Actg.* AD/RR

Date: 18 Dec '52

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